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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15366 101745Z

41
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 ACDA-10 NIC-01 NEA-06 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-03 FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-01

OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-03 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 SAJ-01

/103 W
---------- 075387
R 101510Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3311
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S ME TRIP

1. SUMMARY. UNUSUALLY EARLY SOVIET COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15366 101745Z

ME TRIP BY BOVIN (IZVESTIYA, OCTOBER 10) SUGGESTS THAT THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ARABS SHOULD ASSESS THE SECRETARY'S TRIP ACCORDING TO THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SHOULD TAILOR THEIR RESPONSES TO U.S. INTEREST IN LOWER OIL PRICES ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY.

2. BOVIN RECALLS THAT ARAB USE OF THE OIL WEAPON WAS THE KEY FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING ABOUT A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER WAR. NOW THE SECRETARY'S AGENDA HAS TWO CHIEF ISSUES: REVIVAL OF EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD AN ME PEACE SETTLEMENT, PARTICULARLY THE SEARCH FOR AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, AND THE U.S. DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS ABOUT LOWERING OIL PRICES.

3. COMMENTARY ASSERTS THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF STRUGGLE BETWEEN THOSE IN WASHINGTON WHO HOPE TO EXPLOIT THE "HALF MEASURES" ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THE ME TO FREEZE THE PRESENT SITUATION TO ISRAEL'S ADVANTAGE AND THOSE "INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES" WHO WANT TO BUILD ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO MOVE TOWARD A RADICAL SOLUTION OF THE ME CRISIS.

4. BOVIN CONCLUDES THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE STRUGGLE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. BUT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT SHOULD CLARIFY WASHINGTON'S POLICY AND IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ACTIONS DIRECTED AT ATTAINING TRUE PEACE IN THE AREA "ASSUME THE URGENT LAUNCHING OF THE MECHANISMS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE."

5. COMMENT: ABOVE COMMENTARY APPARENTLY REPRESENTS SOVIET REJOINDER TO SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 7 REMARKS SUGGESTING THAT PROGRESS ON OIL NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT NECESSARILY LINKED DIRECTLY TO MOVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. AT SAME TIME BOVIN COMMENT MAKES EFFORT TO BEND ARAB THINKING ON THE LINKAGE BETWEEN OIL AND THE ME CRISIS TO SOVIET INTEREST IN RECONVENING THE MEPC.
STOESSEL

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